

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 8, 18, 21 to 33, 36 and 37 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
discrimination means for discriminating a type of a plurality of objects in an image to be rendered;

determination means for determining whether or not the discriminated object is in condition to be synthesized with other objects;

first synthesis means for synthesizing the objects in accordance with the determination result;

second synthesis means for synthesizing object type information of objects discriminated by said discrimination means; and

processing means for appending the object type information synthesized by said second synthesis means to a rendering result obtained by rendering the object to be rendered in units of pixels,

wherein the syntheses of the first and second synthesis means are inhibited upon receiving an inhibition command of the synthesis process.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the type of object to be rendered includes information indicating if an object is a bitmap or a vector graphic.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the type of object to be rendered includes information indicating if an object is a color or monochrome object.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the type of object to be rendered includes information indicating if an object is a character or an object other than the character.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the type of object to be rendered includes information indicating if an object is a tone or resolution priority object.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising image processing means for performing an image process on data of the rendering result in accordance with the information of the type of object.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the image process includes a binarization process, filter process, and black character extraction process.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the image process outputs rendered data using black alone when it is determined in accordance with information of the object that the object is a black character.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second synthesis means synthesizes the object type information of the objects in accordance with one of synthesis modes including OR, AND, XOR and α blend.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[18]] 2, wherein the inhibition command is input by a printer driver of a host computer connected to said image processing apparatus.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the synthesis by said first synthesis means is done for at least two different objects.

21. to 33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:
a discrimination step of discriminating a type of a plurality of objects in an image to be rendered;
a determination step of determining whether or not the discriminated object is in condition to be synthesized with other objects;
a first synthesis step of synthesizing the objects in accordance with the determination result;
a second synthesis step of synthesizing object type information of objects discriminated by the discrimination step; and
a processing step of appending the object type information synthesized by the second synthesis step to a rendering result obtained by rendering the object to be rendered in units of pixels,
wherein the syntheses of the first and second synthesis steps are inhibited upon receiving an inhibition command of the synthesis process.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored a computer-readable program comprising codes which are loaded and executed by a computer to make the computer function as an image processing apparatus, said program codes comprising codes to perform the steps of:

a discrimination step of discriminating a type of a plurality of objects in an image to be rendered;

a determination step of determining whether or not the discriminated object is in condition to be synthesized with other objects;

a first synthesis step of synthesizing the objects in accordance with the determination result;

a second synthesis step of synthesizing object type information of objects discriminated by the discrimination step; and

a processing step of appending the object type information synthesized by the second synthesis step to a rendering result obtained by rendering the object to be rendered in units of pixels,

wherein the syntheses of the first and second synthesis steps are inhibited upon receiving an inhibition command of the synthesis process.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)